

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for providing summary information about a hierarchically divided document structure, comprising:

providing a multiple level arrangement of documents with a first level document representing a task of a project and a second level of documents representing subtasks of the task[[s]], such that the documents are arranged in a hierarchical manner, and wherein said project may comprise multiple tasks;

adding a summary information field to each document with relevant summary information for that document, said summary information including information about a percentage completion of a particular task/subtask represented by the particular document within the overall project to be completed; and

when a save operation is performed on one of the second level documents, dynamically updating the summary information field of the first level document to include relevant summary information from said one second level document that is saved.

2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining whether said saved document has updated a value within its summary information field prior to completing said dynamically updating step, wherein said dynamically updating step only occurs when the value has not been updated.

3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

monitoring which documents among all opened documents within the hierarchical structure contain said summary information field, wherein said determining process is restricted to only those documents that contain a summary information field.

4. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

assigning to each task and subtask within the project an individual point total representing a current completion point total for the specific task and/or subtask, where the completion point total is an in-progress value, ranging from a minimum value to a maximum value that may be assigned to indicate final completion of the task and subtask to track the progress of the specific task and subtask;

encoding said point total within the summary information filed of the document representing the specific task and subtask;

enabling updates of the completed point total within the summary information field for each representative document of each task and subtask of the project;

automatically determining an overall point total for the project and a completed point total for all tasks and subtasks affiliated with said project; and

dynamically calculating a current completion percentage of each of said task utilizing a sum of the completed point total for subtasks associated with the particular task, and dynamically calculating a current completion percentage of said project utilizing said overall point total for the project and a sum of said completed point total for each task within the project.

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 4, further comprising dynamically outputting said current completion percentage by displaying the completion percentage of a task at a particular level when the representative document within that level is selected, wherein when the highest level document is selected, representing the entire project, the completion percentage of the project is displayed.

6. (previously presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said project is subdivided into subproject levels having associated tasks and said dynamically calculating step includes calculating said percentage complete at each of said subproject levels.

7. (original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said project and said subprojects are represented by project documents linked via a computer application, wherein said outputting step includes outputting said completed percentage in a summary display of said project.

8. (original) The method of Claim 7, wherein said computer application is a Lotus Notes Project Tracking application and said calculating step includes programming a LotusScript Agent to update a point total in each document within a document hierarchy of said project and subprojects to reflect said percentage complete.

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9. (previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein said determining step includes prompting a user of said document for an input of said completed point total prior to saving said document, such that the point total for that document is updated to reflect the percentage completion for the task represented by the document with a point total inputted by the user.

10. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said dynamically updating summary information comprises:

querying at least one lower level document; and

calculating an updated summary information value at said higher level document.

11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said dynamically updating summary information comprises:

transmitting a changed summary information value to a higher level document; and

automatically calculating an updated summary information value at said higher level document when the changed summary information is received.

12. (currently amended) A computer-implemented system for providing summary information about a hierarchically divided document, comprising:

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means for providing a multiple level arrangement of documents with a first level document representing a task of a project and a second level of documents representing subtasks of the task[[s]], such that the documents are arranged in a hierarchical manner, and wherein said project may comprise multiple tasks;

means for adding a summary information field to each document with relevant summary information for that document, said summary information including information about a percentage completion of a particular task/subtask represented by the particular document within the overall project to be completed; and

means, when a save operation is performed on one of the second level documents, for dynamically updating the summary information field of the first level document to include relevant summary information from said one second level document that is saved.

13. (previously presented) The system of Claim 12, further comprising means for determining whether said saved document has updated a value within its summary information field prior to completing said dynamically updating step, wherein said dynamically updating step only occurs when the value has not been updated.

14. (previously presented) The system of Claim 12, further comprising:

means for monitoring which documents among all opened documents within the hierarchical structure contain said summary information field, wherein said determining process is restricted to only those documents that contain a summary information field.

15. (previously presented) The system of Claim 12, further comprising:

means for assigning to each task and subtask within the project an individual point total representing a current completion point total for the specific task and/or subtask, where the completion point total is an in-progress value, ranging from a minimum value to a maximum value that may be assigned to indicate final completion of the task and subtask to track the progress of the specific task and subtask;

means for encoding said point total within the summary information filed of the document representing the specific task and subtask;

means for enabling updates of the completed point total within the summary information field for each representative document of each task and subtask of the project;

means for automatically determining an overall point total for the project and a completed point total for all tasks and subtasks affiliated with said project; and

means for dynamically calculating a current completion percentage of each of said task utilizing a sum of the completed point total for subtasks associated with the particular task, and dynamically calculating a current completion percentage of said project utilizing said overall point total for the project and a sum of said completed point total for each task within the project.

16. (previously presented) The system of Claim 15, further comprising means for dynamically outputting said current completion percentage by displaying the completion percentage of a task at a particular level when the representative document within that level is selected, wherein when

the highest level document is selected, representing the entire project, the completion percentage of the project is displayed.

17. (previously presented) The system of Claim 16, wherein said computer application is a Lotus Notes Project Tracking application and said calculating means includes means for updating a point total in each document within a document hierarchy of said project and subprojects to reflect said percentage complete utilizing a LotusScript Agent.

18. (previously presented) The system of Claim 17, wherein said determining step includes prompting a user of said task document for an input of said completed point total prior to saving the document.

19. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising:  
a computer readable medium; and  
program code on said computer readable medium for providing summary information about a hierarchically divided document, said program code including program code for:

providing a multiple level arrangement of documents with a first level document representing a task of a project and a second level of documents representing subtasks of the task[[s]], such that the documents are arranged in a hierarchical manner, and wherein said project may comprise multiple tasks;

adding a summary information field to each document with relevant summary information for that document, said summary information including information about a percentage completion of a particular task/subtask represented by the particular document within the overall project to be completed; and

when a save operation is performed on one of the second level documents, dynamically updating the summary information field of the first level document to include relevant summary information from said one second level document that is saved.

20. (previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 19, further comprising program code for determining whether said saved document has updated a value within its

summary information field prior to completing said dynamically updating step, wherein said dynamically updating step only occurs when the value has not been updated.

21. (previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 19, further comprising program code for:

monitoring which documents among all opened documents within the hierarchical structure contain said summary information field, wherein said determining process is restricted to only those documents that contain a summary information field.

22. (previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 19, further comprising program code for:

assigning to each task and subtask within the project an individual point total representing a current completion point total for the specific task and/or subtask, where the completion point total is an in-progress value, ranging from a minimum value to a maximum value that may be assigned to indicate final completion of the task and subtask to track the progress of the specific task and subtask;

encoding said point total within the summary information filed of the document representing the specific task and subtask;

enabling updates of the completed point total within the summary information field for each representative document of each task and subtask of the project;

automatically determining an overall point total for the project and a completed point total for all tasks and subtasks affiliated with said project; and

dynamically calculating a current completion percentage of each of said task utilizing a sum of the completed point total for subtasks associated with the particular task, and dynamically calculating a current completion percentage of said project utilizing said overall point total for the project and a sum of said completed point total for each task within the project.

23. (previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 22, further comprising program code for dynamically outputting said percentage complete by displaying the completion percentage of a task at a particular level when the representative document within that level is

selected, wherein when the highest level document is selected, representing the entire project, the completion percentage of the project is displayed.

24. (original) The computer program product of Claim 23, wherein said computer application is a Lotus Notes Project Tracking application and said calculating program code includes code for updating a point total in each document within a document hierarchy of said project and subprojects to reflect said percentage complete utilizing a LotusScript Agent.

25. (original) The computer program code of Claim 24, wherein said determining program code includes code for prompting a user of said task document for an input of said completed point total.